



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNMENT PLANS TO ISSUE MORE TAXI LICENCES.....	1
FOUR NEW MEMBERS FOR ICAC'S CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS.....	3
TEXTILE QUOTA POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE EEC...	4
SUMMER COURSE ON TEACHING OF GRAPHIC DESIGN.....	6
YOUNGSTERS COMPLETE TRAINING COURSE ON VOLUNTEER SERVICES.	6
WATER CUT IN POKFULAM.....	7

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

- 1 -

GOVT PLANS TO ISSUE MORE TAXI LICENCES
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO ISSUE MORE TAXI LICENCES NEXT YEAR.

DISCLOSING THIS TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. A.T. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, SAID THAT THIS MOVE WAS PART OF A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS AFFECTING TAXIS, PUBLIC HIRE CARS AND +PAK PAIS+ ON WHICH THE ADVICE OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS RECENTLY OBTAINED.

HE SAID THAT ONCE SUFFICIENT NEW TAXI LICENCES HAD BEEN ISSUED IT WAS THE INTENTION SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO PHASE OUT THE EXISTING CATEGORY OF +RED PLATE+ OR PUBLIC HIRE CAR.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT IT WAS NOT GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PHASE OUT PUBLIC HIRE CARS OVERNIGHT. THESE VEHICLES, HE EXPLAINED, WOULD BE PHASED OUT BY NOT RENEWING THEIR LICENCES WHEN DUE, STARTING MOST PROBABLY BY JUNE NEXT YEAR. THIS MEANS THAT BY THE END OF JUNE 1978 PUBLIC HIRE CARS WILL BE COMPLETELY ABOLISHED.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SAID THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE NEARLY 1,300 PUBLIC HIRE CARS, BUT MANY OF THEM WERE PAINTED TO RESEMBLE TAXIS AND HAD A FORM OF METER AND OPERATED AS THOUGH THEY WERE TAXIS.

ALTHOUGH, IN LAW, PUBLIC HIRE CARS SHOULD BE HIRED ONLY ON A PRE-ARRANGED CONTRACT, MANY ARE ESTIMATED TO OPERATE, AT LEAST FOR PART OF THE DAY, ILLEGALLY AS TAXIS.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID, HOWEVER, THAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ISSUE MORE THAN 100 NEW TAXI LICENCES EACH MONTH BY TENDER BUT THESE WOULD BE ISSUED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD UNTIL IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE OVERALL TAXI STRENGTH WAS ADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE PUBLIC AND SO THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO THE USE OF ILLEGAL TAXIS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME SUGGESTION IN THE PRESS RECENTLY THAT PUBLIC HIRE CAR OPERATORS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXCHANGE THEIR CURRENT LICENCES FOR TAXI LICENCES.

+THIS IS NOT TRUE,+ HE SAID. +PUBLIC HIRE CAR OPERATORS WILL HAVE TO TENDER FOR TAXI LICENCES THE SAME WAY AS EVERYONE ELSE.+

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THAT THERE STILL REMAINED A GENUINE REQUIREMENT FOR SOME FORM OF PRIVATE HIRE CARE SERVICE WHICH COULD BE PRE-BOOKED AND IT WAS THE INTENTION TO CATER FOR THIS BY INTRODUCING A NEW FORM OF PERMIT TO ENABLE PRIVATE CARS TO CARRY PASSENGERS FOR HIRE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

/PUBLIC HIRE

PUBLIC HIRE CAR OPERATORS COULD OF COURSE CONTINUE THEIR TRADE IN THIS WAY, HE SAID, BUT CONTRACT HIRE CARS WOULD REMAIN IN THE PRIVATE CAR CATEGORY AND WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIABLE FROM THEIR LICENCE PLATES OR THE COLOUR OF THEIR BODY WORK AS HIRE CARS.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT ANY CAR OWNER WHO WISHES TO HIRE OUT HIS PASSENGER CAR SHOULD BE ISSUED WITH A PERMIT TO DO SO, AT A CHARGE OF \$500 ANNUALLY, PROVIDED THAT HE CAN SHOW THAT HE HAS ADEQUATE INSURANCE COVER FOR SUCH USE AND THAT THE VEHICLE IS MECHANICALLY SOUND.

HE SAID THAT AS IN THE CASE OF ALL PRIVATE CARS, PROOF OF THEIR USE AS ILLEGAL TAXIS WOULD LEAD TO SEVERE SANCTIONS.

REFERRING TO SANCTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SAID THAT SANCTIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW PROPOSALS WHICH HE MENTIONED EARLIER WOULD NOT BE UNDERMINED BY ILLEGAL PRACTICES WOULD REQUIRE NEW LEGISLATION, WHICH WOULD BE DRAFTED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID IT WAS INTENDED THAT THIS LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE FOR SOME SORT OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SUSPENSION OF LICENCES OF UNLAWFULLY USED VEHICLES AND FOR THE IMPOUNDING OF THE VEHICLES.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT ALSO RECALLED HIS EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE A NEW CLASS OF TAXIS FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, FOR WHICH IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, 750 LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED, TO PROVIDE A LEGAL TAXI SERVICE TO REPLACE RURAL +PAK PAIS+ WHICH GENERALLY OPERATE BETWEEN REMOTE AREAS AND LOCAL MARKET TOWNS.

REGULATIONS WOULD BE INTRODUCED, HE SAID, TO RESTRICT THESE TAXIS TO THE MORE RURAL AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE OUTSIDE THEIR PERMITTED BOUNDARIES. ORDINARY TAXIS, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. I.F.C. MACPHERSON, SAID THE TENTATIVE TIME-TABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS IS : -

- (A) START INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FIRST BATCH OF 250 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES IN EARLY AUGUST 1976 WITH A VIEW TO ISSUING ALL THE 750 NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES BY THE END OF MARCH 1977=
- (B) START CALLING FOR TENDERS FOR ORDINARY TAXIS AT THE RATE OF 100 LICENCES PER MONTH IN ABOUT FEBRUARY 1977=
- (C) INTRODUCING STIFFER SANCTIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL USE OF VEHICLES IN EARLY 1977=
- (D) START ISSUING CONTRACT HIRE PERMITS IN ABOUT MAY 1977=
- (E) HAVING GIVEN PUBLIC CAR LICENCE HOLDERS AMPLE TIME TO BID FOR ORDINARY TAXI LICENCES OR TO ACQUIRE CONTRACT HIRE PERMITS, TO START PHASING OUT THE EXISTING CATEGORY OF PUBLIC CAR BY NOT RENEWING LICENCES IN JUNE 1977= IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BY ABOUT MID-1978 BEFORE THE LAST PUBLIC CAR WAS DELICENSED.

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

- 3 -

ICAC'S CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS
FOUR NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED
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FOUR NEW MEMBERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO SERVE ON THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS (CACCR) - THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE ICAC.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO REAPPOINTED THE CHAIRMAN, SIR Y.K. KAN AND 11 ORIGINAL MEMBERS TO SIT ON THE COMMITTEE FOR A SECOND TERM OF ONE YEAR.

THE FOUR NEW APPOINTEES TO THE CACCR ARE:

MR. WILSON CHEUNG, AN ARCHITECT, AND THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS. HE IS ALSO SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE.

MR. HO YUEN-CHOW, BOOK-KEEPER OF THE PARAGON MANUFACTORY LTD., IN KWUN TONG. MR. HO IS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH POINT ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTH POINT (WEST) AREA COMMITTEE. HE IS ALSO AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE 86TH HONG KONG SCOUT GROUP.

MR. NATHAN MA NING-HEI, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE YUEN LONG LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL. HE IS A MEMBER OF YUEN LONG'S DISTRICT COMMITTEE AND CITIZENS AWARD COMMITTEE.

MR. PONG DING-YUEN, THE CHAIRMAN OF SHIU WING STEEL CO. LTD. MR. PONG IS AN HONORARY ADVISOR TO THE PO LEUNG KUK AS WELL AS TO THE 1976-77 CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST. IN ADDITION, HE IS THE HON. PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADVISING THE COMMISSIONER OF ICAC ON THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ENLIST AND FOSTER PUBLIC SUPPORT IN COMBATTING CORRUPTION AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE EVILS OF CORRUPTION.

IN THIS RESPECT, IT WILL RECEIVE AND CALL FOR REPORTS ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO MONITOR COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION'S WORK AND PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS CORRUPTION IN GENERAL.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS MET FIVE TIMES AND THREE SUB-COMMITTEES, I.E. THE MASS MEDIA SUB-COMMITTEE, THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE, HAVE BEEN SET UP TO EXAMINE AND ADVISE ON THE WORK OF VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE SUB-COMMITTEES HAVE HELD A TOTAL OF 25 MEETINGS.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CACCR ARE:- SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN (CHAIRMAN), MR. J. CATER (VICE-CHAIRMAN), MISS SALLY AW SIAN, REV. J.M. BENNETT, MR. LOUISE L.Y. CHA, MR. CHAN KWOK-KEUNG, MR. GEORGE HO, DR. HENRY H.L. HU, MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH, MRS. LEE LO YUK-SIM, REV. PATRICK MCGOVERN, DR. DANIEL C.W. TSE, MR. D. AKERS-JONES, MR. WILSON CHEUNG, MR. HO YUEN-CHOW, MR. NATHAN NING-HEI MA, AND MR. PONG DING-YUEN.

TEXTILE QUOTA POSITION
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THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE END OF JUNE 1976 FIGURES ON THE UTILISATION OF QUOTAS IN RESPECT OF ALL RESTRAINED MARKETS.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID THAT WHILST THE RATE OF UTILISATION WAS HIGH IN A NUMBER OF CATEGORIES TO CERTAIN MARKETS, THE FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENTS COULD ENABLE HONG KONG TO EXPORT UP TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED PERCENTAGES OVER AND ABOVE THE RESTRAINT LIMITS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FREE QUOTAS FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES AND MARKETS WERE STILL AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION AND INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE QUOTA POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE EEC, HONG KONG'S TWO MAJOR TEXTILE MARKETS.

USA

IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THE US TEXTILE RESTRAINT PERIOD WHICH BEGAN ON OCTOBER 1, 1975, TOTAL QUOTAS USED AMOUNTED TO 579 MILLION EQUIVALENT SQ. YDS. OR 65 PER CENT OF THE OVERALL ANNUAL LIMIT.

FIGURES SHOWING THE QUANTITIES LICENSED FOR EXPORTS AND PERCENTAGE UTILISATION ON A GROUP BASIS ARE SET OUT BELOW: -

	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QUANTITY LICENSED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE UTILISATION AGAINST GROUP LIMITS</u>
GROUP I	YARNS AND FABRICS OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES	150.9	62%
GROUP II	APPAREL OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES	386.1	70%
GROUP III	MADE-UPS AND MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES OF COTTON AND MAN-MADE FIBRES	23.5	43%
GROUP IV	WOOL TEXTILE AND APPAREL	18.6	45%

NOTE: FIGURES ON QUANTITY LICENSED ARE IN MILLION EQUIVALENT SQ. YDS.

OF THE CATEGORIES SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC LIMITS IN THE HONG KONG/US TEXTILE AGREEMENT, THE RATE OF UTILISATION IN FIVE OUT OF 21 CATEGORIES COULD BE DESCRIBED AS RELATIVELY HIGH. THESE FIVE CATEGORIES WERE CATEGORY 22/23 (Twill AND Sateen), CATEGORY 41/42/43/62(2) (COTTON KNIT T-SHIRTS AND OTHER KNIT SHIRTS AND BLOUSES EXCEPT SWEAT-SHIRTS), CATEGORY 50/51 (COTTON WOVEN TROUSERS), CATEGORY 218/219/224(5) (M.M.F. KNIT SHIRTS, BLOUSES, TOPS AND VESTS) AND CATEGORY 221 (M.M.F. KNIT SWEATERS). IN ADDITION, RELATIVELY HIGH UTILISATION WAS ALSO RECORDED IN CATEGORY 116/117 SWEATER PERMITS. THE UTILISATION FOR THE REST OF THE SPECIFIC CATEGORIES WAS RELATIVELY LOW.

EEC

THE CURRENT 12-MONTH EEC TEXTILE RESTRAINT PERIOD BEGAN ON JANUARY 1, 1976. QUOTA UTILISATION POSITIONS ON MEMBER STATE BASIS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1976 ARE GIVEN BELOW:-

<u>MEMBER STATE</u>	<u>QUANTITY LICENSED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE UTILISATION</u>
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	18	46%
UNITED KINGDOM	30.4	45%
BENELUX	2.7	32%
DENMARK	1.6	50%
ITALY	1	24%
FRANCE	0.9	42%
IRISH REPUBLIC	0.2	32%

NOTE: FIGURES ON QUANTITY LICENSED ARE IN MILLION EQUIVALENT KGS.

OUT OF A TOTAL OF 108 CATEGORIES ON MEMBER STATE/CATEGORY BASIS, THE RATE OF UTILISATION IN 24 OF THEM WAS RELATIVELY HIGH. THE POPULAR CATEGORIES INCLUDED CATEGORY 3 (KNIT SHIRTS AND BLOUSES), CATEGORY 4 (KNIT SWEATERS), CATEGORY 8 (WOVEN TROUSERS), CATEGORY 10 (WOVEN DRESSES), CATEGORY 11 (WOVEN BLOUSES), CATEGORY 12 (WOVEN SHIRTS) AND CATEGORY 13 (WOVEN PYJAMAS).

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

- 6 -

SUMMER COURSE ON TEACHING OF GRAPHIC DESIGN
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A TWO-WEEK SUMMER COURSE ON THE TEACHING OF GRAPHIC DESIGN FOR ART TEACHERS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE COURSE, WHICH WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY (JULY 26), AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE IN NORTH POINT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS COMPRISING TALKS, VISITS AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID EMPHASIS WOULD BE PLACED NOT ONLY ON THE NEW ART AND DESIGN SYLLABUS (GRAPHIC DESIGN) NOW BEING COMPILED FOR FORMS 4 AND 5 TO HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION LEVEL BUT ALSO ON THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE TEACHERS AS EXPRESSED BY THEM DURING RECENT DISCUSSION.

+INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING RELEVANT 'DO-IT-YOURSELF' TIPS FOR TEACHING AIDS,+ HE SAID.

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YOUNGSTERS COMPLETE TRAINING COURSE ON VOLUNTEER SERVICES
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ONE HUNDRED YOUNGSTERS, WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED A WEEK-LONG TRAINING COURSE ON VOLUNTEER SERVICES, HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP IN ORGANISING SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WONG TAI SIN AREA.

THE COURSE, AIMED AT DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS IN ORGANISING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, WAS SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE FOR WONG TAI SIN, THE TSZ WAN SHAN ESTATE COMMUNITY WORK OFFICE (EAST) AND THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

THE YOUNGSTERS, CONSISTING OF 40 GIRLS AND 60 BOYS, ARE NOW INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES LIKE CHILDREN SUMMER CLUB, HOLIDAY CAMP, INTEREST GROUP, GAMES COMPETITION AND FILM SHOW.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE TRAINING COURSE, THE FIRST ONE ORGANISED THIS YEAR, HAD PROVIDED A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNGSTERS TO LEARN BOTH THE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE PRACTICAL SKILLS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES.

+WE HOPE MORE YOUNGSTERS WILL ENROL IN SUCH COURSES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN FUTURE SO AS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE,+ HE ADDED.

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THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

- 7 -

WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN POKFULAM ON THE HONG KONG ISLAND AND WONG TAI SIN IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON SATURDAY (JULY 24) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN POKFULAM, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY BISNEY ROAD, CROWN TERRACE, SASSOON ROAD AND TELEGRAPH BAY VILLAGE.

IN WONG TAI SIN, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY JUNCTION ROAD, TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD, TUNG LUNG ROAD AND TUNG WOR ROAD, INCLUDING TUNG TSING ROAD, TUNG TAU ESTATE BLOCK 5 AND MEI TUNG ESTATE.

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